

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT APPLICATION

Application No.: 09/681,712
Applicant: Nakamoto et al.
Filing Date: May 24, 2001
Title: **METAL PLATING APPARATUS
AND PROCESS**

Atty. Docket: JP9-1999-0277-US1
Today's Date: October 15, 2003
Examiner: William T. Leader
Group Art Unit: 1742
Fax: 703-872-9310

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Response to Official Action

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to a restriction requirement dated September 16, 2003, Applicants respectfully request consideration of the claims elected. No fee is due by virtue of this election. However, if the PTO decides that a fee is due, please charge Applicants' deposit account, 09-0456.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that, on the date shown below, this correspondence is being:

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ANTHONY J. CANALE
Name
Anthony J. Canale
Signature

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The Examiner indicated that restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-28, drawn to metal plating apparatus, classified in class 204, subclass 230.2.
- II. Claims 29-34, drawn to a method of forming an equi-voltage surface for plating, classified in class 205, subclass 96.

Further, the Examiner states that the Group I claims are directed to two patentably distinct species of the claimed invention.

Applicants elect the claims of Group I directed to (1) apparatus including a pair of conductive perforated plates electrically connected to each other, without traverse. Thus, the claims that are readable on the elected species and variations for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable include: claims 1-22.

Also, upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants wish to re-open consideration of claims to additional species and variations which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141.

The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the number listed below if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would aid in furthering the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,

For: Nakamoto et al.

By:

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